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# A MAP of BARBARY Comprehending MOROCCO, FEZ, ALGIERS, TUNIS and TRIPOLI.

sold by Mathew Carey, No. 118, Marketstreet

Philad: J. T. Scott Sculp.



A  
SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF  
ALGIERS,  
CONTAINING  
A DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
CLIMATE OF THAT COUNTRY,  
OF THE  
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS  
OF THE  
INHABITANTS,  
AND OF THEIR SEVERAL WARS AGAINST SPAIN,  
FRANCE, ENGLAND, HOLLAND, VENICE, AND  
OTHER POWERS OF EUROPE, FROM  
THE USURPATION OF BARBAROSSA  
AND THE INVASION OF THE  
EMPEROR CHARLES V. TO  
THE PRESENT TIME;  
WITH A CONCISE  
VIEW OF THE ORIGIN  
OF THE RUPTURE  
BETWEEN  
ALGIERS AND THE UNITED STATES.

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*Aur hinc tellus in patulos specus,  
Ætheræ flammis perde sequacibus  
Turpes colonas, AFRICANÆ  
Dedecus, opprobriumque terræ.*

BUCHANAN.

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PHILADELPHIA:

Printed by J. Parker for M. Carey, No. 118, Market-street;  
January 8, 1794.

District of Pennsylvania, to wit—

(L. S.) **B**E it remembered, that on the eighth day of January, in the eighteenth year of the independence of the united states of America, Mathew Carey, of the said district, hath deposited in this office, the title of a book, the right whercof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit :

“ A short account of Algiers, containing a description of the climate of that country, of the manners and customs of the inhabitants, and of their several wars against Spain, France, England, Holland, Venice and other powers of Europe, from the usurpation of Barbarossa and the invasion of the emperor Charles V. to the present time, with a concise view of the origin of the rupture between Algiers and the united states.” In conformity to the act of the congress of the united states, intituled, “ An act for the encouragement of learning ; by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned.”

SAMUEL CALDWELL, Clerk of  
the district of Pennsylvania.



# SHORT ACCOUNT, &c.

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## CHAP. I.

*General description of the country of Algiers. Climate.  
Sea-Coast. Principal cities.*

**ALGIERS** is a country, which derives its name from its metropolis; and extends four hundred and eighty miles in length from east to west along the northern coast of Africa. Its utmost breadth is three hundred and twenty miles, but at the distance of an hundred miles from the sea-coast, that part of Africa becomes a barren desert, almost utterly uninhabitable either by man or beast. Algiers is situated between thirty-two and thirty-seven degrees of north latitude, which corresponds to that of the United States, from Virginia to Carolina, inclusive. It is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean sea; on the south, by mount Atlas; on the east, by the country of Tunis; and on the west, by the river Mulvia, which separates it from the empire of Morocco.

The principal rivers, which water the territory of Algiers, rise in Mount Atlas, and run by a northerly direction into the Mediterranean sea. They are seven in number. None of them has a long course, or even is navigable; at least none of them is made use of in navigation. It is however likely that they might be employed for this purpose, were the inhabitants of a more intelligent and industrious character; for some of them are of a tolerable depth. Such is the gross ignorance of the natives in whatever concerns domestic improvement, that there is not a single bridge over any of these rivers. When they are to be crossed, the traveller hath sometimes to wander for several miles in search of a ford, as ferry-boats are unknown. If a heavy rain happens to fall, he is forced to wait, till the river returns to its usual size.

This country consists of eighteen provinces. The climate is remarkably delightful. The air is pure and serene. The soil is covered with almost a perpetual verdure. Extreme heat is not common. This description applies to the lands on the sea-coast; for as we advance into the country, the soil becomes more parched and barren. Indeed a considerable part of the back country is a savage desert, abounding with lions, tigers, leopards, buffaloes, wild boars, and porcupines. And it must be acknowledged, that these animals are not the least amiable inhabitants of this country.

There are few towns of any consequence, though when successively under the dominion of Carthage and Rome, it abounded with populous cities. Bona is supposed to be the same place with the ancient Hippo, a sea-port built by the ancients. It was formerly the capital of the province of Bona. It lies on the Mediterranean sea, and there is a coral fishery near it. It is a town of no importance, and of slender population. In this part of the world, elegant architecture, has, for many centuries been utterly forgotten or despised. The buildings of Bona, as every where else, are therefore mean. It is exposed to the incursions of the Arabs. The name of this people is used by travellers in a very indefinite manner. Algiers is at the distance of some hundreds of leagues from Arabia: but as this part of Africa was formerly conquered by that nation, under the banners of Mahomet, the name is still applied to a race of tawny and independent barbarians, who wander in gangs about the country, and unite the double professions of a shepherd and a robber. Bona was formerly a magnificent city. Its grandeur is now only to be traced in the ruins of a monastery. It has a fortress, and a garrison of three hundred Turks, as the banditti chuse to call themselves; a Turk being the most reputable title in that country. This circumstance is alone sufficient to ascertain the depth of its wretchedness. These adventurers however are not Turks, but the sweepings of all nations blended together. They are commanded by an aga, who is likewise governor of the town. Bona was taken by Charles V. in his expedition

to Tunis, but was not long after recovered by its former masters.

Constantina is situated on the river Sef Gomar, forty eight miles from the sea-coast. It received its present name from that of a princess, the daughter of the emperor Constantine, to whom it was indebted for magnificence. The situation is on a peninsula, difficult of access, except towards the south-west. It is one mile in circumference, well fortified, and contains many fragments of ancient architecture. In particular there is part of a noble bridge; and near it, is a large subterraneous aqueduct, which terminates in a cascade. State criminals are sometimes precipitated down this place, and dashed to pieces against the rocks at its bottom. A bey resides here, and has under his command three hundred Turkish horse, and one thousand five hundred Moorish soldiers. This is the account given by travellers, though it is not likely that the number of the garrison is always the same. In details of this kind, we must be contented with the best materials that can be had, though sometimes not entirely above exception. The inhabitants of Constantina, are said to be opulent and haughty. This city was formerly the residence of a race of kings who governed the province of Constantina, of which it is the metropolis; but in the year 1520, the whole territory was conquered by Barbarossa, that distinguished scourge of mankind, who annexed it to the government of Algiers. Some splendid ruins exist in the vicinity of Constantina. Upon the sea-coast, at a small distance from it, are the traces of a Roman colony, antiently called Colo. It is situated on a high rock, and has a garrison. Adjoining to it is a French factory, to which the Moors bring hides, wax, and wool, for sale. At no great distance are the remains of the ancient city of Stora. It is said that the mountainous part of this territory is inhabited by a hardy people, who can raise forty thousand fighting men. It is not probable, that those writers who made this assertion had ever an opportunity of counting their number. History abounds with such random calculations. The vagabond who founded Rome has been supplied by the generosity

of succeeding historians, with an army about equally numerous, though it is, at the same time, acknowledged, that his *kingdom* was only seven or eight miles in length.

Gigeri is situated about fifteen miles from Bona. It contains about fifteen hundred houses, and the inhabitants are very poor. It is defended by a fort and a small garrison. The natives of this part of the country are independent and barbarous. They retire, when circumstances require it, to inaccessible fastnesses, and set the dey of Algiers at defiance. Ships, when wrecked on this coast, are plundered, and the crews are treated with the utmost savageness. In this respect, however, the natives of the territory of Gigeri cannot differ much for the worse from the rest of their countrymen; nor is the practice peculiar to Barbary. Scenes of the same kind are frequently acted, and if any thing can be still more infamous, are almost always acted with impunity, on the coast of Cornwall, and other maritime counties of England.\* The French, in the year 1666, had begun to fortify Gigeri. They were driven from it by the Algerines, with the loss of their cannon, and most of their effects.

Bugia, was formerly the capital of a kingdom of the same name. It stands at the mouth of the river Major, or Zinganor, about twenty leagues to the eastward of Algiers. It is little better than a heap of ruins; a description which applies to almost every town in that part of the world. It has three castles, two at the port, and one upon a rock, at a small distance behind them. In the year 1671, a British admiral took or destroyed, in this harbour, nine Algerine ships of war. It is extremely seldom, that an admiral has been charged with such a laudable commission.

Steffa or Steffa, is situated in a fertile valley, sixty miles to the south of Bugia, and fifteen miles from the sea. It exhibits only the melancholy ruins of its former

\* There is a story of an English parson, whose congregation, during the time of divine service, heard of a shipwreck. In spite of his utmost efforts to detain them, the whole assembly rushed out of church, in a body, to divide the plunder.

magnificence, containing about three hundred miserable families.

Tebef was formerly a flourishing city, but is at present extremely reduced. Zamoura is in the same condition. It is defended by a fort. Couco was once the metropolis of a kingdom of the same name. Its sovereigns were in the habit of forming alliances with the court of Spain. For this reason, the Algerines, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, ravaged the whole country, and destroyed every town in it. The inhabitants have still supported their independence, by taking refuge in the mountainous parts of the country, which are said to be very fertile; but the Algerines prevent them from holding any intercourse with foreign nations. Biscara, has a fort and garrison. One of the chief employments of the people here, is to catch and tame lions, tygers, and other beasts of prey, which they carry for sale to Algiers. Necanz, is one of the pleasanter towns in Barbary. It is watered by an agreeable river, whose banks are adorned with a variety of beautiful trees. The town contains a magnificent mosque and a college for the education of Mahometan students.

Oran is situated about two hundred and fifty miles west of Algiers. It lies partly on a plain, and partly on the ascent of a hill. It is a mile and an half in circumference and tolerably fortified. But it is unfortunately commanded by some of the neighbouring eminences; so that a garrison of ten or twelve thousand men is necessary to defend it with success against a skilful enemy. As the Spanish coasts and merchant ships had suffered much from the corsairs of this port, Ferdinand king of Spain, determined to attempt its reduction. For this purpose, he transported into Africa an army, under the command of his prime minister cardinal Ximenes, one of those few statesmen, who have not deserved the detestation of mankind. The wonted good fortune of Ximenes, did not, at this juncture, desert him. He had maintained a correspondence with some of the people of Oran; and when the Moors sallied out to attack the Spanish army, their perfidious countrymen shut the gates against them. Ximenes killed four thousand of the

barbarians, and set at liberty twenty thousand Christian slaves. The Algerines, during almost two hundred years, made frequent and unsuccessful attempts to recover the town. At last, in 1708, they retook it. In June, 1732, a Spanish army was disembarked not far from Oran. The Turkish commander, his troops, and the inhabitants were seized with a panic, and abandoned their fortifications without much resistance. The victors found in the place an hundred and forty six pieces of cannon, besides mortars, and at least fifty ship loads of provisions. This latter supply contributed much to the preservation of their new conquest. Without it they must have run the greatest hazard of perishing in the midst of success; as a tempest, which lasted for several days, cut off all intercourse between the army upon shore, and the fleet at sea. The Moors not long after attacked the Spaniards with great fury, but were finally repulsed with much slaughter on both sides. Oran is still possessed by Spain.

Tremesen was formerly the capital town of a kingdom of that name. It is situated ninety miles south-west of Oran, surrounded by a strong wall and well fortified. It has five gates with draw-bridges before them, and a castle containing handsome barracks for the Janisaries who are in garrison. Tremesen while a metropolis was a splendid city. It contained one hundred and fifty mosques, and one hundred and sixty public baths. Since it ceased to be the seat of an independent government, it hath shrunk into ruins and desolation. The mosques are reduced to eight, and its public baths to four. The inhabitants are extremely indigent.

Mostagan, stands fifty miles east of Oran. This town is built in the form of a theatre opening to the sea, and surrounded on every other side with rocks that hang over it. The ruins of an old Moorish castle stand in a space between the rocks, and there is a strong stone wall towards the port, with a modern built castle, garrisoned by a number of Turks. The citadel is erected upon the summit of one of the rocks, and commands both city and territory. The haven is commodious, and the town is well supplied with water. The neigh

houring mountains are inhabited by a people called Magarabas, who live in tents, possess a great number of flocks, and pay to the dey of Algiers twelve thousand crowns annually. There is a handsome mosque in this town.

Tenez, is situated about one hundred miles to the eastward of Oran, twenty miles east of Mostagan, and at a league distant from the sea, where it has a convenient port. There is a castle that was once a royal palace, and in which the governor resides. The fortifications are strong, the garrison numerous, and the neighbouring territory fertile. This was supposed to have been the Julia Cæsarea of the ancients.

Sercelli, lies between Tenez and Algiers, about twenty four miles to the westward of the latter. It is defended by a Turkish garrison, and has a port, which will only admit of small vessels. This was antiently a large and populous city, but is at present a poor and desolate place.

The southern part of the Algerine territories, is inhabited by a wandering race of people, who like the Tartars, roam from place to place, and live in tents. The country itself is hilly, a branch of mount Atlas running through it. The only riches of the people are their numerous flocks and herds. The government exacts a tribute from them, but a bey is obliged to come annually at the head of an army to collect it; and many of them retire to inaccessible places till the troops are withdrawn, in order to evade the payment.

Algiers, itself stands on a bay of the Mediterranean sea. It is built on the side of a mountain. The houses rise gradually from the sea-shore up the ascent, in the form of an amphitheatre. The town appears beautiful at a distance, when approaching from the water. The mosques, castles, and other public buildings have a striking effect; but the streets are narrow, and the houses mean. The roofs are flat, so that the people can visit each other, at a considerable distance in the town without going into the streets. The walls are about a league in circumference, and defended by some square towers and bastions. The port has a pier about five

hundred paces in length, which extends from the continent to a small rocky island called the Lantern. On this island, there is a castle with three lines of brass cannon. The town has five gates, ten great mosques, and fifty lesser ones, and is computed to contain an hundred thousand inhabitants. The fortifications are extensive and strong. The Christian slaves are often employed in removing stones from a quarry, at some distance in the country, which they lay on the sand, to defend the mole from the impetuosity of the waves. This laborious work is never at an end, because the sea constantly washes away the stones, and makes a perpetual supply necessary. One street, which is broad and handsome, passes through the town from east to west; but all the other streets are narrow, incommodious, and dirty. There are said to be fifteen thousand houses, which are commonly built round a small square with a paved court in the centre. Around this court is a double range of galleries, one above the other, and both supported by columns. The palace of the dey stands in the centre of the city. This building is very extensive, and surrounded by two superb galleries, supported by marble pillars. There is a law here, by which any woman convicted of amorous correspondence with a Christian, is thrown into the sea, with her head tied up in a sack, unless her lover chuses to turn Mahometan. Examples of this kind are not unfrequent, as the fair sex, in that part of the world, are said to be remarkably frail. Six of the baths have been converted into prisons for the Christian slaves. In each of these, there is a chapel for the free exercise of their religion. Every slave is let out at a certain hour in the morning, and must return at a stated hour at night, in order to be locked up. Each of them is allowed a matras and a rug for a bed. There are several tolerable edifices without the walls of the town, which add to the beauty of the environs. Among these are a variety of Turkish sepulchres and monuments. One of these monuments contains six magnificent tombs of a circular figure. They were erected to the memory of six deys, who were in the course of a few days, successively elected and murdered.



There is perhaps no nation in the world from which we may not learn some useful lesson. With respect to the burial of their dead, travellers inform us, that the Mahometans discover a degree of delicacy of which Christians have no conception. In our church yards, nothing is more common, and surely nothing can be more completely shocking, than to see graves broke up, a second time, before the person has returned to his original dust; and the remains of the dead are tossed about with as little ceremony as possible. This wretched violation of decency arises from the orthodox desire of being buried in holy ground; a practice which has no doubt been encouraged by the parties concerned, for the purpose of exacting a high price. Exorbitant demands of this kind have not long since been paid within less than an hundred miles of Philadelphia. The Algerines, and the other professors of the Mahometan religion, would regard it as an act of the most barbarous sacrilege to disturb the remains of the dead, by opening their graves, at any distance of time, or upon any pretence whatever. Hence their burial grounds in the neighbourhood of a large city are sometimes ten miles in extent.

Algiers had formerly nothing but rain water. A Moor, who had been driven from Spain, constructed two aqueducts, by which it is now supplied with abundance of excellent water from the adjacent mountains. The country around this city is very fertile. Country-seats, gardens, and groves of trees are said to be numerous. The Algerines are unacquainted with the art of pruning and grafting trees. Their gardens are not walled, but fenced round with a peculiar species of fig-trees, which from their prickles, and the compactness with which their branches interweave, are well adapted for that purpose. Among other rich tracts in the province of Algiers Proper, the great plain of Mettjah is admired for its astonishing fertility. It is fifty miles in length, twenty in breadth, and includes many villas, fragrant groves, and delightful gardens. The soil produces such a profusion of the most delicious fruits, rice, roots, and grain of every species, that the inhabitants enjoy annually two, and frequently three

crops The hot baths of Meereega, in the neighbourhood of this city, are natural curiosities. The principal one is twelve feet square and four deep. The water is very hot, and when it has filled the larger basin, runs through it into another of a smaller size, where the Jews bathe, as they are not permitted to use the same bath, with the Mahometans. These hot fountains are conjectured to proceed from the great quantities of sulphur, nitre, and other inflammable substances in the bowels of the earth. To this cause likewise have been ascribed those earthquakes, to which the whole country, and Algiers in particular, are frequently subjected.

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## CHAPTER II.

*Customs. Religion. Government. Land Forces. Corsairs.*

THE present inhabitants of the territory of Algiers are composed of a multitude of different nations. Among these are the Moors or Morescos who were driven out of Spain about the end of the sixteenth century, and the Arabians, who trace their descent from those disciples of Mahomet who formerly subdued this country. Levantines, Turks, Jews, and Christian slaves, with a croud formed of the posterity of all these different people, make up the rest of the population. The Moors and Arabs are the most numerous. The former compose the great body of the inhabitants of the towns. But it may be readily supposed, that amidst such a variety of different races, immense numbers cannot be said to belong to any particular tribe or nation whatever. In this country there are many wandering bands of shepherds, who live together in camps and remove from one place to another as they want pasture for their herds and flocks, or as any other accidental circumstance happens to make it necessary. They sometimes pay rent to landlords, in corn, fruit, honey, wax, and other productions of the same kind. The dey likewise demands a tribute. The excellence of the climate renders this simple way of living tolerable, though the tents of these people are mean, their utensils of little

value, and their lodging filthy. The family and their domestic animals, lie promiscuously in the tents together, except the dogs, which are left on the outside as guards. They raise considerable numbers of bees and of silk-worms. They subsist chiefly on bread, rice and fruit. Wine and spirituous liquors are almost entirely unknown.

The dress of the men is only a long piece of coarse cloth wrapped round the shoulders, and falling down to their ankles, with a cap of the same stuff. The women pay some more attention to the ornamental part of dress. The children are suffered to go stark naked till seven or eight years of age. The Sheik or chief of a tribe wears a cap of fine cloth. These people are usually called Arabs; their customs, language and religion bear a strict affinity with those of Arabia. They are robust and of a swarthy complexion. The men are active, the women prolific, and the children healthy. They have neither to encounter the hardships incident to the life of a North-American savage, nor are their constitutions enfeebled, as is sometimes the case in manufacturing towns, by sedentary and unhealthful employments. When a young man would marry, he drives a number of cattle to the hut where the parents of his mistress reside. The bride is set on horseback and led home, amidst the shouts of a croud of young people, who have been invited to the nuptial feast. When she arrives at the hut of her lover, a mixture of milk and honey is given her to drink, and a song suitable to the occasion is sung. She then alights, and is presented with a stick, which she thrusts into the ground, and repeats some lines to the following effect: "As this stick is fastened in the earth, so I am in duty bound to my husband; as nothing but violence can remove it, so death alone shall force me from his love." She then drives his flock to water and back again, to shew her willingness to perform any duty that he may assign her. These previous ceremonies being settled, all the company enter the hut, and the evening concludes with the greatest festivity that these people are capable of enjoying. Subsequent to the marriage, the

wife is obliged to wear a veil. She never stirs from the hut for the space of a month, after that time. These are the ceremonies reported to be customary in celebrating a marriage among the pastoral tribes of Barbary. But narratives of this kind must be received, as bishop Burnet admonishes the reader, to peruse his History of his own times, viz. *with some grains of allowance*. Such uniform regularity is hardly to be expected among a race of wandering shepherds. Perhaps an African critic would turn from our description of his country with as much disdain, as a citizen of the United States feels in attempting to peruse a frothy volume respecting North-America, fabricated by some of the professional book-builders of Paris or of London.\*

\* The following curious circumstances may serve to shew what kind of opinion ought to be entertained of the authors of oriental travels. In the year 1783, an adventurer, who called himself a modern Greek, published a small volume entitled *the life of Ali Bey*. It contained some romantic stories, which the author attested as an eye witness. About this time the court of France had dispatched into Egypt Monsieur Savary, a gentleman of some note in the republic of letters. His business was to obtain authentic information concerning the ancient and modern situation of that country. He returned, and in due time published two large volumes, pregnant with learning and sublimity. Monsieur Volney soon after entered the lists as a third champion. He made a very severe attack on the veracity of his French predecessor. In particular, he upbraided him with having stolen a great number of pages, from a very contemptible imposture which pretended to be a *life of Ali Bey*. This biographer, as an evidence, perhaps, of his classical pedigree, had assumed the name of *Cosmopolitos*. Volney added that a copy of the book having by chance come to Egypt, while he was there, the European merchants in that province could not help expressing their surprize, that their countrymen were stupid enough to digest such ridiculous reveries. Monsieur Savary did not long survive this humiliating discovery. But the "Modern Greek" replied in a volume of letters, which he inscribed by permission to sir William Fordeyce, an eminent English physician. In this work he affirms that Volney himself wrote his travels *in a garret at London*.  
 BELLA! HORRIDA BELLA!

It is certainly, though not generally known, that the letters

The Moors or Arabs, for the two names appear to be synonymous, are good horsemen, but great thieves. Their principal arms are a short lance and a scymitar, though they are likewise acquainted with the bow and the musket. It is dangerous to travel in the country, for fear of being robbed, but persons are said to be in safety, if attended by one of the Mahometan Marabouts or hermits. The inhabitants on the sea-coast are perfectly versant in the use of fire-arms.

Algiers retains the title of a kingdom, an epithet which might, without regret, be expunged from every human vocabulary. It is however a military republic, though it certainly can reflect no lustre on that species of government. The national ordinances run in these words: "We, the great, and small members of the mighty and invincible militia of Algiers," &c. The dey is elected by a divan composed from the army. He seldom secures his office, without tumult and bloodshed; and he often falls by the dagger of an assassin. This sovereign may with peculiar propriety adopt the expression of one of the heroes of Ossian: "I was born in the midst of battles, and my steps must move in blood to the tomb." The way in which his authority is exercised, corresponds with that by which it has been obtained. When Mr. Bruce, as British resident at Algiers, had occasion to visit the dey, he sometimes found him in his hall of audience, with his cloaths all bespattered with blood, like those of a carcase butcher. It is a very frequent amusement with him, to cause the heads of his subjects to be struck off in his presence. Mr. Bruce said, that he knew of one man, who was executed, for no greater offence than because a gun-flint was found upon him. His indictment and trial were very concise. "You rascal, what business have

of lady Mary Wortley Montague are the offspring of a mercantile pen. Even Baron Tott, and Mr. Bruce, though writers of *comparative* authenticity, require in the reader, strong and frequent doses of faith.

“ you with a flint, unless you were going to conspire  
 “ against the state ?”\*

The aga of the Janissaries is the officer next to the dey in dignity and power. He enjoys his post but two months, and then retires upon a pension. The other officers of importance are a secretary of state, twenty four Chiah bassas or colonels subordinate to the aga, eight hundred senior captains, and four hundred lieutenants. Among these officers, the right of seniority is strictly observed. A breach of this point would be expected to produce a revolt among the soldiers, and might perhaps cost the dey his life. Besides these officers, there are others belonging to the Turkiska forces, who form a separate body. The dey has a corps of guards; a very necessary, though sometimes a fruitless precaution; as any private soldier who has the courage to murder him, stands an equal chance of becoming his successor. Experiments of this description are sometimes made. Since the beginning of the present century, six private soldiers entered into a conspiracy to kill a dey of one of the states of Barbary. They gave him a mortal wound in his palace, and in the midst of a croud of people. He expired, exclaiming, “ Has nobody the courage to kill a villain ?” One of the conspirators, the intended successor, instantly ascended the vacant throne, and brandishing his naked scymitar, declared *that he would do justice to all!* His five associates went about the hall to enforce the title of their new master; and none present seemed to give themselves any disturbance about what had happened. He kept his situation unmolested, for about ten minutes, till an old veteran unobserved took aim with a musket or blunderbuss, and shot him dead. Upon this, the five others were immediately dispatched by the persons present. But what shewed the nature of the government in its proper light was the observation of the new dey. He said, that if the usurper could have held

\* These picturesque details are not inserted in the publication of Mr. Bruce; but they were related to me on his authority, by a gentleman of the first rank in the literary world.

his place for twenty minutes longer, he would have obtained the throne.

The people of Algiers in general speak a compound of Arabic, Moreſco, and the remains of the ancient Phœnician languages. The natives of all denominations, for the moſt part, underſtand the *Lingua Franca*. This is a kind of dialect, which without being the proper language of any country on the coaſt of the Mediterranean ſea, has a kind of univerſal currency all over that quarter of the world, as the channel of information for people, who cannot underſtand each other through any medium but itſelf. The public buſineſs of the nation is tranſacted in the Turkiſh tongue, in which alſo the records are kept. It is curious, that in converſation, a Turk tranpoſes his nouns and verbs, in the ſame way that the Græek and Latin writers have done. Some of our modern critics have been woefully perplexed in attempting to explain this practice, which they ſeem to conſider as peculiar to thoſe two ancient languages. Had they been acquainted with the circumſtance juſt now mentioned, they might readily have ſolved ſome of their doubts, by a voyage to Conſtantinople.

In Algiers, both men and women ſpend a great part of their time in indolence; the men, in drinking coffee and ſmoking; and the women, in dreſſing, bathing, viſiting the tombs of their relations, and ſauntering in their gardens. The Algerines by their law may have four wives, but they uſually content themſelves with two or three at the moſt. The huſband ſeldom ſees his wife before marriage, but accepts her upon the deſcription of a female confident. When the match is agreed upon, the bridegroom ſends a preſent of fruits and ſweetmeats to the bride, and entertains her relations with a feaſt and a muſical entertainment.\*

\* An author, whoſe bulk at leaſt entitles him to reſpect, gravely tells us, that when an Algerine dies, his body is clad in a turban, a ſhirt, a pair of drawers, and *a ſilk robe*! If we underſtand this paſſage in its literal ſenſe, ſilk muſt be more abundant, in that kingdom, than linen is, in any part of Europe; ſince it is certain that thouſands of poor people in Europe are buried without even a ſhirt. Thus it is that books of

The militia who elect the dey are either Turks or renegado Christians. Their number has been variously stated by different authors from six thousand five hundred to twelve thousand. The dey pays no other revenue to the grand seignior, than that of a certain number of handsome youths, and some other annual presents. His income is more or less in proportion to his opportunities of plundering his neighbours or his subjects. Dr Shaw says, that the taxes of the whole kingdom produce yearly to the dey but about three hundred thousand dollars. He conjectures that the eighth share of the prizes, the property of persons who die without children, and to whom the dey falls heir, with the presents from foreign nations, and his private acts of robbery at home, extend to an equal sum. It is easy to see that this calculation must be extremely questionable. The tyrant himself can hardly be supposed capable to give a distinct estimate.

The Musti, the Cadi, and the grand Marabout, are the principal ecclesiastics. The first is the high priest of their religion; the second, the supreme judge in ecclesiastical causes, and in such civil matters as the civil power does not interpose in. The third is the chief of an order of saints or hermits. These three persons are distinguished by the largeness of their turbans. They sit in the divan a little below the dey, on his right hand. The divan itself consists of about two thousand Turkish officers and soldiers.

The common punishment at Algiers, for offences not capital, is the bastinado; for those, which are so, the bow-string, which two people pull different ways with all their strength, so that the criminal is instantly dispatched. The Christian slaves are liable to a variety of punishments. They are sometimes burned, or rather roasted alive. At other times, they are impaled. This is done, by placing the offender on the

travels are written. The journalist records what he has seen happen once, or perhaps has never seen at all, as what takes place every day. The writer above referred to might as well have told us, that every native of Algiers was seven feet high.



of a sharp stake, which is thrust up his posteriors close by the back-bone, till it appears above his shoulders. Slaves are sometimes cast over the walls of a town upon iron hooks. These catch by the jaws, by the ribs, or some other part of the body; and the sufferers have been known to hang thus for several days, alive, and in the most exquisite torture. Crucifixion, by nailing the hands and feet to walls, is likewise practised.

A Moor convicted of house-breaking, hath his right hand cut off and fastened about his neck. He is then led through the city on an ass, with his face towards its tail. Persons of distinction, for crimes against the state, are placed between two boards, and sawed asunder. Women, detected in adultery, are fixed by their necks to a pole, and held under water till they are suffocated.

When an Algerine pirate takes a prize, he examines into the quality and circumstances of the prisoners. If he disbelieves the account that they give of themselves, they are bastinadoed, till he has met with an agreeable answer. Having obtained what information he is able, he brings them on shore, after having stripped them almost naked. He carries them directly to the palace of the dey, where the European consuls assemble, to see if any of the prisoners belong to their respective nations, who are at peace with Algiers. In that case, they reclaim them, provided that they were only passengers; but if they have served on board of the ships of any people at war with "the mighty and invincible militia," they cannot be discharged without payment of the full ransom.

Matters are thus settled between the dey and the consuls, what part of the prisoners are to be set at liberty, and what part are to be considered as slaves. The dey has next his choice of every eighth slave. He generally chuses the masters, surgeons, carpenters, and most useful hands belonging to the several prizes. Besides his eighth, he lays claim to all prisoners of quality, for whom a superior ransom is to be expected. The rest are left to the corsair and his owners. They are carried to the slave market; the crier proclaims their

rank, profession, and circumstances, and the price set upon each of them. They are then led to the court before the palace of the dey, and there sold to the best bidder. If any sum is offered beyond the price first set upon them, it belongs to the government. The captors and owners have only that which was originally set upon the slaves. For this practice of buying and selling slaves, we are not entitled to charge the Algerines with any exclusive degree of barbarity. The Christians of Europe and America carry on this commerce an hundred times more extensively than the Algerines. It has received a recent sanction from the immaculate *Divan* of Britain. Nobody seems even to be surpris'd by a diabolical kind of advertisements, which, for some months past, have frequently adorned the newspapers of Philadelphia. The French fugitives from the West-Indies have brought with them a croud of slaves. These most injured people sometimes run off, and their master advertises a reward for apprehending them. At the same time, we are commonly inform'd, that his sacred name is marked in capitals, on their breasts; or in plainer terms, it is stamp'd on that part of the body with a red hot iron. Before therefore we reprobate the ferocity of the Algerines, we should enquire whether it is not possible to find, in some other regions of the globe, a systematic brutality still more disgraceful?

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### CHAPTER III.

*Origin of the present government of Algiers. Expedition of Charles V.*

**A**LGIERS had undergone a variety of revolutions in its form of government, previous to the beginning of the sixteenth century, which it is not within the plan of this sketch to describe. But about that time, a sudden revolution happened, which, by rendering the states of Barbary formidable to the Europeans, hath made their history worthy of more attention. "This revolution was brought about, by persons born in a rank

of life, which entitled them to act no such *illustrious* "part."\* Horuc and Hayradin, the sons of a potter

\* Robertson's History of Charles V. book 5. It is to be wished, that this writer had left us an explanation of what idea he intended to convey, by the word *illustrious*. In his History of America, it is frequently applied to the conquerors of Mexico and Peru; and here to the founders of the piratical state of Algiers. Yet a few lines farther down, in the page just quoted, he says, that these corsairs, whom he had just before termed *illustrious*, followed an *infamous* trade. Immediately after, he charges one of them with a perfidious *murder*. If these are not contradictions, what name are we to give them? In the history of America, book 5, he tells us that Cortes "has been *admired and celebrated* by succeeding ages." Thus a presbyterian divine holds forth as an object of *admiration* and *celebrity*, the butcher of two or three millions of innocent people. Dr. Robertson has filled three octavo volumes, with a history of the reign of Charles V. who was likewise, it seems, an object worthy of *admiration*. This tyrant consigned to the executioner, fifty or an hundred thousand of his protestant subjects in the Netherlands; as we are informed by father Paul and Grotius. There is not, however, to be found, in the narrative of the panegyrist of Barbarossa, one single word of such a bloody persecution; nor has this stupendous mutilation of history been started as an objection to Dr. Robertson, by any of the London critics, whom I have met with. Had this reverend author been writing the life of Richard III. of England, we may from what has been above stated, conjecture, that he would have forgot to mention the two nephews of that *illustrious* sovereign. Of such heroes, such an encomiast, and a world that admires the one and the other, candour can only say, *Malus, Pejor, Peffimus*.

It is provoking to see how many of the most distinguished historians despise the reputation of veracity. Mr. Hume, as a pattern of excellence, is usually coupled with Dr. Robertson. As to him, the reader may look into my additions to the article of IRELAND, in the American edition of Guthrie's geography. In this respect, the ancients are often as exceptionable. Sallust pronounces for Catiline, a long speech to his army, just before its defeat. He adds, soon after, *Postremo, ex omni copia, neque in prælio, neque in fuga, quisquam civis ingenuus captus est*. From this expression we are to understand, that the whole rebel army was cut to pieces; a few fugitive slaves perhaps excepted. Where then did Sallust obtain a copy of the speech of Catiline? or what are we to think as to the fidelity of that most enchanting writer?

in the isle of Lesbos, prompted by a restless and enterprising spirit, forsook their father's profession, ran to sea, and joined a crew of pirates. They soon distinguished themselves by their valour and activity, and becoming masters of a small brigantine, supported their infamous trade with such conduct and success, that they assembled a fleet of twelve galleys, besides many vessels of smaller force. Of this fleet, Horuc, the elder brother, called Barbarossa from the red colour of his beard, was admiral, and Hayradin second in command. Their names soon became terrible from the Straits of the Dardanelles to those of Gibraltar. Together with their power their ambitious views extended, and while acting as corsairs, they assumed the ideas, and acquired the talents of conquerors. They often carried the prizes, which they took on the coast of Spain and Italy, into the ports of Barbary. The convenient situation of these harbours, lying so near the greatest commercial states at that time in Christendom, made the brothers wish for an establishment in that country. An opportunity of accomplishing this project, presented itself, and they did not suffer it to pass unimproved. Eutemi, king of Algiers, having attempted several times, without success, to take a fort which the Spanish governors of Oran had built not far from his capital, applied to Barbarossa. The corsair, leaving his brother Hayradin with the fleet, marched at the head of five thousand men to Algiers. Such a force gave him the command of the town. He secretly murdered the monarch whom he had come to assist, and proclaimed himself king in his stead. The authority which he had usurped, he established by arts suited to the genius of the people whom he had to govern; by liberality without bounds to those who favoured his promotion, and by cruelty no less unbounded to all whom he had any reason to mistrust. He continued to infest the coast of Spain and Italy with fleets which resembled the armaments of a great monarch, rather than the squadrons of a pirate. Their frequent and cruel devastations obliged Charles V. about the beginning of his reign, to furnish the Marquis de Comares, governor of Oran, with troops

sufficient to attack him. That officer executed the commission with such spirit, that Barbarossa's forces being vanquished in several encounters, he himself was shut up in Tremecen, and in attempting to make his escape was fortunately slain.

His brother Hayradin, known likewise by the name of Barbarossa, assumed the sceptre of Algiers. He carried on his naval robberies with great vigour, and extended his conquests on the continent of Africa. But perceiving that the Moors and Arabs submitted to his government with the utmost reluctance, and being afraid that his continual depredations would, one day, draw upon him the arms of the Christians, he put his dominions under the protection of the grand seignior, and received from him a body of Turkish soldiers sufficient for his security against his domestic as well as foreign enemies. At last, the infamy, or, as Dr. Robertson calls it, the *fame* of his exploits daily increasing, Solyman offered him the command of the Turkish fleet; and Hayradin on the other hand, justly dreading the consequences of the tyranny of his officers over the Algerines, sought the protection of the grand seignior. This was readily granted, and himself appointed bashaw or viceroy of Algiers; by which means he received such considerable reinforcements, that the unhappy Algerines durst not make the least complaint; and such numbers of Turks resorted to him, that he was not only capable of keeping the Moors and Arabs in subjection at home, but of annoying the Christians at sea.

Hayradin set about building a strong mole for the safety of his ships. In this he employed thirty thousand Christian slaves, whom he obliged to work without intermission for three years, in which time the work was completed. Hayradin soon became dreaded not only by the Arabs and Moors, but also by the maritime Christian powers, especially the Spaniards. The viceroy failed not to acquaint the grand seignior with his success, and obtained from him a fresh supply of money, by which he was enabled to build strong forts, and to erect batteries on all places that might favour the landing of an enemy. All these have since

received greater improvements from time to time, as often as there was occasion for them.

In the mean time the sultan, either out of a sense of the great services of Hayradin, or perhaps out of jealousy lest he should make himself independent, raised him to the dignity of bashaw of the empire, and appointed Hassan-Aga, a Sardinian renegado, to succeed him as bashaw of Algiers. Hassan had no sooner taken possession of his new government, than he began to pursue his ravages on the Spanish coast with greater fury than ever; extending them to the ecclesiastical state, and other parts of Italy. Pope Paul III. alarmed at this proceeding, exhorted the emperor Charles V. to send a powerful fleet to suppress those frequent piracies; and, that nothing might be wanting to render the enterprize successful, a bull was published by his holiness, wherein a plenary absolution of sins, and the crown of martyrdom, were promised to all those who either fell in battle or were made slaves. The emperor, on his part, needed no incitement, and therefore set sail at the head of a powerful fleet, consisting of an hundred and twenty ships and twenty galleys, having on board thirty thousand troops, with an immense quantity of arms, and ammunition. In this expedition, many young nobility and gentlemen attended as volunteers, and among these many knights of Malta, so remarkable for their valour against the enemies of Christianity. Even ladies of birth and character attended Charles, and the wives and daughters of the officers and soldiers followed him with a design to settle in Barbary, after the conquest was finished.

By this prodigious armament the Algerines were thrown into the utmost consternation. The city was surrounded only by a wall with scarce any out-works. The garrison consisted of eight hundred Turks and six thousand Moors, without fire-arms, and poorly disciplined and accoutred; the rest of their forces being dispersed in the other provinces of the kingdom, to levy the usual tribute on the Arabs and Moors. The Spaniards landed without opposition, and immediately

built a fort, under the cannon of which they encamped, and diverted the course of a spring which supplied the city with water. Being now reduced to the utmost distress, Hassan received a summons to surrender at discretion, on pain of being put to the sword with all his garrison. The herald was ordered to extoll the vast power of the emperor both by sea and land, and to exhort him to return to the Christian religion. But to this Hassan only replied, that he must be a madman, who would pretend to advise an enemy, and that the person advised would act still more madly who would take counsel of such an adviser. He was, however, on the point of surrendering the city, when intelligence was brought him that the forces belonging to the western government were in full march towards the place; upon which it was resolved to defend it to the utmost. Charles, in the mean time, resolving upon a general assault, kept a constant firing on the town; which, from the weak defence made by the garrison, he looked upon as already in his hands. But while the divan were deliberating on the most proper means of obtaining an honourable capitulation, a mad prophet, attended by a multitude of people, entered the assembly, and foretold the destruction of the Spaniards before the end of the moon, exhorting the inhabitants to hold out till that time. This prediction was soon accomplished in a very surprising and unexpected manner; for, on the 28th of October 1541, a dreadful storm of wind, rain, and hail, arose from the north, accompanied with violent shocks of earthquakes, and a dismal and universal darkness both by sea and land; so that the sun, moon, and elements, seemed to combine together for the destruction of the Spaniards. In that one night, some say in less than half an hour, eighty six ships and fifteen galleys were destroyed, with all their crews and military stores; by which the army on shore was deprived of all means of subsistence. Their camp also, which spread itself along the plain under their fort, was laid quite under water by the torrents which descended from the neighbouring hills. Many of the troops, by trying to remove into some better situation, were cut to

pieces by the Moors and Arabs; while several galleys, and other vessels, endeavouring to gain some neighbouring creeks along the coast, were immediately plundered, and their crews massacred by the inhabitants.

Next morning, Charles beheld the sea covered with the fragments of ships, and the bodies of men, horses, and other creatures, swimming on the waves; at which he was so disheartened, that abandoning his tents, artillery, and all his heavy baggage, to the enemy, he marched at the head of his army, in no small disorder, towards Cape Mallabux, in order to reembark in those vessels, which had out-weathered the storm. But Hassan, who had watched his motions, allowed him just time to get to the shore, when he sallied out, and attacked the Spaniards in the midst of their hurry to get into their ships. He killed great numbers, and brought away a still greater number of captives; after which he returned in triumph to Algiers.

Soon after this, the prophet Yusef, who had foretold the destruction of the Spaniards, was declared the deliverer of his country, and had a considerable gratuity decreed him, with the liberty of exercising his prophetic function unmolested. It was not long, however, before the Marabouts, and some interpreters of the law, made a strong opposition against him, remonstrating to the bashaw, how ridiculous and scandalous it was to their nation, to ascribe its deliverance to a poor fortune-teller, which had been obtained by the fervent prayers of an eminent saint of their own profession. But though the bashaw and his divan seemed out of policy, to give into this last notion, yet the impression, which the prediction of Yusef and its accomplishment had made upon the minds of the common people, proved too strong to be eradicated; and the spirit of divination and conjuring has since got into such credit among them, that not only their great statesmen, but their priests, marabouts, and santoons, have applied themselves to that study, and dignified it with the name of Mahomet's Revelations.

The Spaniards had scarce reached the ships, when they were attacked by a fresh storm, in which severa



more of them perished. A vessel in particular, containing seven hundred soldiers, besides sailors, sunk in the sight of Charles, without a possibility of saving a single man. At length with much labour, they reached the port of Bujayah. They stayed no longer here than till the sixteenth of November, when they set sail for Carthage, and reached it on the twenty-fifth of the same month. In this unfortunate expedition upwards of one hundred and twenty ships and galleys were lost, with above three hundred colonels and other officers, and eight thousand soldiers and marines, besides those destroyed by the enemy on their re-embarkation, or drowned in the last storm. The number of prisoners was so great, that the Algerines sold some of them, by way of contempt, for an onion per head.

From this time, the Spaniards were never able to annoy the Algerines, in any considerable degree. In 1555, they lost the city of Bujayah, which was taken by Salab Bais, successor to Hassan. This commander, in 1556, set out upon a new expedition, suspected to be against Oran; but he was scarcely got four leagues from Algiers, when the plague, which at that time raged violently in the city, broke out in his groin, and luckily carried him off in twenty-four hours.

Immediately after his death, the Algerine soldiery chose a Corsican renegado, Hassan Corso, in his room, till they should receive further orders from the porte. He did not accept of the bashawship without a good deal of difficulty, but immediately prosecuted the intended expedition against Oran, dispatching a messenger to acquaint the porte with what had happened. The army had hardly begun their hostilities against the place, when orders came from the porte, expressly forbidding Hassan Corso to begin the siege, or, if he had begun it, enjoining him to raise it immediately, which he accordingly did.

Corso had enjoyed his dignity for four months, when Tekelli, a new bashaw, arrived, as his successor from Constantinople. The Algerines resolved not to admit him; but by the treachery of the Levantine soldiers, he at last entered. Corso was thrown over a wall, in which

a number of iron hooks were fixed. One of these catching the ribs of his side, he hung three days in horrid agony, before he expired. “ We meet with events in the annals of mankind, that make us doubt the truth of the most authentic history. We cannot believe that such actions have ever been committed by the inhabitants of this globe, and by creatures of the same species with ourselves. We are tempted to think we are perusing the records of hell.”\*

Tekelli was assassinated under the dome of a saint, by Yusef Calabres, the favourite renegado of Hassan Corso. The murderer was chosen bashaw, but died of the plague, six days after his election.

Yusef was succeeded by Hassan the son of Hayradin Barbarossa. Not long after, the Spaniards undertook an expedition against Mostagan under the command of the count d’Alcandela ; but were utterly defeated, the commander himself killed, and twelve thousand men taken prisoners. Hassan having disoblged his subjects, they sent him in irons to Constantinople, while two Turkish officers supplied his place. Hassan cleared himself ; but Achmet, a new bashaw, was appointed. Upon his arrival at Algiers, he sent the two deputy bashaws to Constantinople, where their heads were struck off. Achmet, in four months died ; and Hassan was sent a third time viceroy to Algiers.

He soon engaged in the siege of Marsalquiver, possessed by the Spaniards, and situated near the city of Oran. The Turkish standards were several times planted on the walls, and as often dislodged ; but in the end Hassan was obliged to raise the siege.

In 1567, Hassan was again recalled to Constantinople. His successor, Mahomet, incorporated the Janisaries and Levantine Turks together. He thus put an end to their dissensions, and laid the foundation of the Algerine independency on the porte. He likewise added some considerable fortifications to the city and castle, which he designed to render impregnable. At this time, one

\* View of Society and Manners in Italy, by Dr. Moore. Letter 16th.

John Gascon, a bold Spanish adventurer, formed a design of surprising the whole piratic navy in the bay, and setting them on fire in the night time. He had the permission of Philip II. and was furnished by him with vessels, mariners, and fire-works, for the execution of his plan. He set sail for Algiers in the beginning of October, when most, if not all the ships lay at anchor there; and advanced near enough, unsuspected, to view them. He came accordingly, unperceived by any, to the very mole gate, and dispatched his men with their fire-works; but these were so ill mixed, that they could not be kindled. Gascon finding himself discovered, and in the utmost danger, sailed away with all possible haste; but he was pursued, overtaken, and brought back a prisoner. Mahomet immediately caused a gibbet to be erected on the spot where Gascon had landed, and hung him by the feet upon a hook, with his royal commission tied to his toes. He had not been long suspended, when the captain who made him prisoner, and a number of other corsairs, interceded so strongly in his behalf, that he was taken down, and put under the care of some Christian surgeons; but two days after, some Moors having reported as the common talk and belief in Spain, that the Algerines durst not hurt a hair of Gascon's head, he was hoisted up by a pulley to the top of the execution wall, and thrown down again. In his fall, a hook caught him by the belly, and gave him a wound, of which he instantly expired.

Mahomet was succeeded by Ochali, a renegado, who reduced the kingdom of Tunis. It remained subject to the viceroy of Algiers only till the year 1586, when a bashaw of Tunis was appointed by the Sultan.

Algiers continued to be governed, till the beginning of the seventeenth century, by Turkish viceroys or bashaws. At last, the Turkish Janisaries and militia becoming powerful enough to suppress the tyrannic sway of those bashaws, they sent a deputation of some of their chief members to Constantinople to complain of their rapacity. They represented to the ministry, how much more honourable it would be for the grand

feignior to permit them to chuse their own dey, or governor, from among themselves, whose interest it would be to see that the revenue of the country was rightly applied in keeping up its forces complete, and in supplying all other exigencies of the state without any farther charge or trouble to the porte, than that of allowing them its protection. Algiers was to be wholly left under the direction of the dey and his divan. The power of the Turkish bashaw was to be reduced to a shadow.

These proposals were accepted by the porte. The divan elected a dey from among themselves. They compiled a new set of laws and made several regulations for the better support and maintenance of this new form of government. The subsequent altercations that frequently happened between the bashaws and deys, the one endeavouring to recover their former power, and the other to curtail it, caused such frequent complaints and discontents at the Ottoman court, as made them sometimes repent of their compliance.

In the year 1601, the Spaniards made another attempt upon Algiers. Their fleet was driven back by contrary winds, so that they came off without loss. In 1609, the Moors being expelled from Spain, flocked in great numbers to Algiers; and as many of them were very able sailors, they undoubtedly contributed to make the Algerine fleet so formidable as it became soon after. In 1616, their fleet consisted of forty ships between two hundred and four hundred tons burthen, and their admiral was five hundred tons. It was divided into two squadrons, one of eighteen sail, stationed before the port of Malaga; and the other at the Cape of Santa Maria, between Lisbon and Seville; both of which attacked Christian ships, both English and French, with whom they pretended to be in friendship, as well as Spaniards, and Portugese, with whom they were at war.

The Algerines were now become formidable to the European powers. The Spaniards, who were most in danger, solicited the assistance of England, the Pope, and other states. The French, however, were the first who dared to shew their resentment at the perfidious

behaviour of these miscreants; and in 1617, M. Beau-lieu was sent against them with a fleet of fifty men of war. He defeated their fleet, and took two of their vessels. Their admiral sunk his own ship and crew, rather than fall into the hands of the enemy.

In 1620, a squadron of English men of war was sent against Algiers, but did nothing. The Algerines, becoming more insolent, openly defied all the European powers, the Dutch only excepted, to whom, in 1625, they sent a proposal, that in case they would fit out twenty sail of ships in the following year, upon any service against the Spaniards, the corsairs would join them with sixty sail.

Next year; the Cologlies, or children of such Turks as had been permitted to marry at Algiers, who were inrolled in the militia, seized on the citadel, and had well nigh made themselves masters of the city. They were attacked by the Turks and renegadoes, who defeated them with terrible slaughter. Numbers were executed, and their heads thrown in heaps on the city walls.

In 1623, the Algerines and other states of Barbary, threw off their dependence on the porte. Sultan Amurath IV. had been obliged to make a truce for twenty five years, with the emperor Ferdinand II. As this put a stop to the piratical trade of the Algerines, they proceeded as above mentioned; and resolved, that whoever desired to be at peace with them, must, separately, apply to their own government. They began to make prizes of several merchant ships belonging to the powers at peace with the porte. They seized a Dutch ship and portecre at Scanderon; they even ventured on shore, and finding the town abandoned by the Turkish aga and inhabitants, they plundered all the magazines and ware-houses, and set them on fire. About this time, Louis XIII. undertook to build a fort on their coasts, instead of one formerly built by the Marsilians, and which had been demolished. This, after some difficulty, he accomplished; and it was called the Bastion of France, but the situation being found inconvenient, the French purchased the port of La Calle, and obtained liberty to trade with

the Arabians and Moors. The Ottoman court, in the mean time, was so much embarrassed with a Persian war, that there was no leisure to check the Algerines piracies. This gave an opportunity to the vizir and other courtiers to compound matters with the Algerines, and to get a share of the prizes, which were very considerable. For the sake of form a severe reprimand, accompanied with threats, was sent them. They replied, that "they deserved to be indulged in these depredations, as they were the only bulwark against the Christian powers, and in particular, against the Spaniards, the sworn enemies of the Moslem name." They added, that "if they should pay a punctilious regard to all who could purchase liberty to trade with the Ottoman empire, they would have nothing to do but set fire to their shipping, and turn camel-drivers."

In the year 1635, four brothers of a family in France, entered into an undertaking so desperate, that perhaps the annals of knight-errantry can scarcely furnish its equal. This was no less than to retort the piracies of the Algerines, upon themselves; and as they indiscriminately took the ships of all nations, so were these heroes indiscriminately to take the ships belonging to Algiers; and this with a small frigate of ten guns! An hundred volunteers embarked; a Maltese commission was obtained, with an able master, and thirty mariners. On their first setting out, they took, on the Spanish coast, a ship laden with wine. Three days after, they engaged two large Algerine corsairs, one of twenty and the other of twenty-four guns. The French made so desperate a resistance, that the pirates were not able to take them, till five other corsairs came up. The French vessel, being almost torn to pieces, was then boarded and taken. In 1642, the brothers redeemed themselves, at the price of six thousand dollars.

In 1637, the Algerines infested the British channel; and, according to Mrs Macauley, \* had made such a vast number of captures, as to have at one time, between four and five thousand subjects of England prisoners.

\* History of England vol. II. chap. 4.

The Algerines profecuted their piracies with impunity, to the terror and disgrace of Chrifendom, till the year 1652; when a French fleet being accidentally driven to Algiers, the admiral took it into his head to demand a release of all the captives of his nation without exception. This being refufed, the Frenchman without ceremony carried off the Turkish viceroy, and his cadì or judge, who were juft arrived from the porte, with all their equipage and retinue. The Algerines, by way of reprifal, furprifed the Baftion of France already mentioned, and carried off the inhabitants to the number of fix hundred, with all their effects. Upon this, the admiral fent them word, that he would pay them another vifit, next year, with his whole fleet.

The Algerines fitted out a fleet of fixteen galleys and galliots, under the command of Hali Pinchinin. The chief design of this armament was againft the treasure of Loretto; which they were prevented by contrary winds from obtaining. Hereupon they made a defcent on Puglia in the kingdom of Naples; where they ravaged the whole territory of Necotra. They carried off a vaft number of captives. Thence fteering towards Dalmatia, they fcoured the Adriatic, and loaded themfelves with immense plunder.

The Venetians, alarmed at fuch ravages, equipped a fleet of twenty-eight fail, under the command of admiral Capello, with exprefs orders to burn, fink, or take, all the Barbary corfairs which he met with, either on the open feas, or even in the Ottoman harbours, agreeable to a late treaty of peace with the porte. On the other hand, the captain bashaw, who had been fent out with a Turkish fleet to chace the Florentine and Maltefe cruifers from the Archipelago, learning that the Algerine fquadron was fo near, fent exprefs orders to the admiral to come to his affiftance. Pinchinin readily agreed; but he was overtaken by Capello, from whom he retired to Valona, a fea-port belonging to the grand feignior, whither the Venetian admiral purfued him; but the Turkish governor refufing to turn out the pirates, according to the articles of the peace between the Ottoman court and Venice, Capello was obliged to cen-

tent himself with watching them for some time. Pinchinin soon ventured out, an engagement immediately ensued, and the Algerines were defeated. Five of the vessels were disabled; one thousand five hundred men, Turks, and Christian slaves, were killed; besides one thousand six hundred galley slaves who regained their liberty. Pinchinin, after this defeat, returned to Valona, where he was again watched by Capello, but the latter had not lain long at his old anchorage, before he received a letter from the senate, desiring him to make no farther attempt on the pirates at that time, for fear of a rupture with the porte. Capello was forced to submit; but resolving to take such a leave of the Algerines as he thought they deserved, observed how they had reared their tents, and drawn their booty and equipage along the shore. He then kept firing among their tents, while some well manned galliots and brigantines were dispatched to attack their snipping. Sixteen galleys, with all their cannon, and stores, were towed out. In this last engagement, a ball from one of the Venetian galleys, struck a Turkish mosque, and hence, the whole action was considered as an insult to the grand seignior. To conceal this, Capello was ordered to sink all the Algerine ships that he had taken, except the admiral; which was to be conducted to Venice, and laid up as a trophy. Capello received a severe reprimand, and the Venetians were obliged to buy, with five hundred thousand ducats, a peace from the porte.

In the mean time, the news of this defeat and loss filled Algiers with rage and confusion. The city was on the point of an insurrection, when the bashaw published a proclamation, forbidding, not only complaints and outcries, under the severest penalties, but all persons whatever to take their thumbs from within their girdles, while they were deliberating on this subject. They applied to the porte for an order, that the Venetians settled in the Levant, should make up their loss. But with this the grand seignior refused to comply, and left them to repair their losses, and to build new ships in the best manner that they could. It was not long, however, before they had the satisfaction of seeing one of their



land, with a fresh supply of six hundred slaves, whom he had brought from the coast of Iceland, whither he had been directed by a miscreant native taken on board a Danish ship.

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#### CHAPTER IV.

*Pinchinin. His engagement with a Dutch ship. Bombardment and Destruction of Algiers, by the French. Defeat of the Spaniards.*

THE pirates did not long continue in their weak and defenceless state; being able, at the end of two years, to appear at sea with a fleet of sixty five sail. The Admiral Pinchinin equipped four galliots at his own expence; with which, in conjunction with the Chiaiah or secretary of the bashaw of Tripoli, he made a second excursion. This small squadron, consisting of five galleys and two brigantines, fell in with an English ship of forty guns; which, however, Pinchinin's captains refused to engage, but being afterwards reproached by him for their cowardice, they swore to attack the next Christian ship that came in their way. This happened to be a Dutch merchantman, of twenty eight guns and forty men, deeply laden, and disabled by a calm from using her sails. Pinchinin immediately summoned her to surrender; but receiving an ironical answer, drew up his squadron in form of an half moon, that they might pour their shot all at once into their adversary. This, however, the Dutchman avoided, by means of a breeze of wind which fortunately sprung up and enabled him to turn his ship; by which the galleys ran foul of each other. Upon this Pinchinin ran his own galley along side the merchantman, the upper deck of which seventy Algerines immediately took possession of, some of them cutting the rigging, others plying the hatches with hand-grenadoes; but the Dutch having secured themselves in their close quarters, began to fire at the Algerines on board, from two pieces of cannon loaded with small shot; by which they

were all soon killed or forced to submit. Pinchinin, in the mean time, made several unsuccessful attempts to relieve his men, as well as to surround the Dutch with his other galleys; but their ship lay so deep in the water, that every shot did terrible execution among the pirates; so that they were obliged to remove farther off. At last the Dutch captain, having ordered his guns to be loaded with cartouches, gave them a parting volley which killed, as it is said, two hundred of them, and sent the rest back to Algiers in a dismal condition.

But though Pinchinin thus returned in disgrace, the rest of the fleet quickly came back with vast numbers of slaves, and an immense quantity of rich spoils; in so much that the English, French, and Dutch, were obliged to cringe to the Algerines, who sometimes condescended to be at peace with them, but swore eternal war against Spain, Portugal, and Italy, whom they considered as the greatest enemies to the Mahometan name. At last Lewis the fourteenth, provoked by the grievous outrages committed by the Algerines on the coasts of Provence and Languedoc, ordered, in 1681, a considerable fleet to be fitted out against them, under the Marquis du Quesne, vice admiral of France. His first expedition was against a number of Tripolitan corsairs; who had the good fortune to outrow him, and shelter themselves in the island of Scio belonging to the Turks. This did not prevent him from pursuing them thither, and making such a terrible fire upon them, as destroyed fourteen of their vessels, besides battering the walls of the castle.

This severity seemed only to be designed as a check to the piracies of the Algerines; but, finding that they still continued their outrages on the French coast, Du Quesne sailed in August, 1682, to Algiers, cannonading and bombarding it so furiously, that, in a very short time, the whole town was in flames. The great mosque was battered down, and most of the houses laid in ruins, so that the inhabitants were on the point of abandoning the place; when, on a sudden, the wind turned about, and obliged Du Quesne to return to Toulon. The Algerines immediately made reprisals,

By ſending a number of galleys and galliots to the coaſts of Provence, where they committed the moſt dreadful ravages, and brought away a vaſt number of captives; upon which a new armament was ordered to be got ready at Toulon and Marſeilles, againſt them the next year; and the Algerines, having received early notice, put themſelves into as good a ſtate of defence as the time would allow.

In May, 1683, Du Queſne with his Squadron caſt anchor before Algiers; where, being joined by the marquis d'Affranville, at the head of five ſtrong veſſels, it was reſolved to bombard the town next day, when accordingly, one hundred bombs were thrown into it which did terrible execution, while the beſieged made ſome hundred diſcharges of their cannon againſt the aſſailants, without doing any conſiderable damage. The following night, bombs were again thrown into the city in ſuch numbers, that the dey's palace and other great edifices were almoſt deſtroyed; ſome of the batteries were diſmounted, and ſeveral veſſels funk in the port. The dey, and Turkiſh baſhaw, as well as the whole ſoldiery, alarmed at this dreadful havock, immediately ſued for peace. As a preliminary, the French inſiſted on the ſurrender of all Chriſtian captives who had been taken fighting under their flag, which being granted, one hundred and forty two perſons were directly delivered up, with a promiſe of ſending on board the remainder, as ſoon as they could be got from the different parts of the country. Accordingly Du Queſne ſent his commiſſary-general and one of his engineers into the town; but with expreſs orders to inſiſt upon the delivery of all the French captives without exception, together with the effects that had been taken from the French; and that Mezmorto their then admiral, and Hali Rais one of their captains, ſhould be given as hoſtages.

This laſt demand having embarrassed the dey, he aſſembled the divan, and acquainted them with it. Upon this Mezmorto fell into a violent paſſion, and told the aſſembly, that the cowardice of thoſe who ſat at the helm had occaſioned the ruin of Algiers; but, that for

his part, he would never consent to deliver up any thing that was taken from the French. He immediately acquainted the soldiery with what had passed; which so exasperated them, that they murdered the dey that very night, and on the morrow chose Mezomorto in his place. This was no sooner done, than he cancelled all the articles of peace which had been made, and hostilities were renewed with greater fury than ever.

The French admiral now kept pouring in such volleys of bombs, that in less than three days, the greatest part of the city was reduced to ashes; and the fire burnt with such fury, that the sea was enlightened for more than two leagues round. Mezomorto, unmoved by all these disasters, and the vast numbers of the slain, whose blood ran in rivulets along the streets; or rather, grown furious and desperate, sought only how to wreak his revenge on the enemy; and, not content with causing all the French in the city to be cruelly murdered, he ordered their consul to be tied hand and foot, and fastened alive to the mouth of a mortar, from which he was shot away against their navy. By this piece of inhumanity, Du Quesne was so exasperated, that he did not leave Algiers till he had utterly destroyed all their fortifications, shipping, almost all the lower part, and above two thirds of the upper part of the city; which became little more than an heap of ruins.

The Algerines were now thoroughly convinced that they were not invincible; and, therefore, immediately sent an embassy into France, begging in the most abject terms for peace; which Lewis very soon granted, to their inexpressible joy. They now began to pay some regard to other nations, and to be somewhat cautious how they wantonly provoked their displeasure. The first bombardment by the French had so far humbled the Algerines, that they condescended to enter into a treaty with England; which was in 1686 renewed upon terms very advantageous to the latter. It is not to be supposed, however, that the natural perfidy of the Algerines would disappear on a sudden. Notwithstanding this treaty, therefore, they lost no

opportunity of making prizes of English ships, when they could conveniently seize them. Upon some infringement of this kind, captain Beach, in 1695, drove ashore and burned seven of their frigates which produced a renewal of the treaty five years after; but it was not until the taking of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, that Britain could have a sufficient check upon them to enforce the observation of treaties; and these have since proved such restraints upon Algiers, that they still continue to pay a greater deference to the English than to any other European power.

In 1708, Oran, as has been already related, was taken by the Algerines from the Spaniards, and recovered by the latter in 1732. The Turkish bashaw was in 1710, finally expelled.

Since the last siege of Oran the most remarkable event in the annals of Barbary is the attack of Algiers, by the Spaniards in the year 1775. With a concise account of that expedition, we shall close this chapter of blood.

On the 23d of June 1775, a fleet of six ships of the line, twelve frigates and thirty three other armed vessels set sail from Carthagena, in Spain, to attack Algiers. There was on board a body of troops amounting to twenty four thousand four hundred and forty seven men, including infantry, cavalry, marines, and six hundred deserters destined to serve as workmen. They were commanded by the count O'Reilly, a personal favourite of the late king of Spain. They had likewise for the land service, an hundred and seventy-six pieces of artillery, mortars, and howitzers, with a suitable quantity of military stores. On the 30th of June, and 1st of July, they anchored in the bay of Algiers. They observed a large encampment, placed behind a battery, east of the river Xarach, which runs on the eastward of the city. On the 2d of July, a council was held; and orders were given that the troops should hold themselves in readiness to disembark next morning, by day break. But as the succeeding night was windy, and a gale well had set in from the shore, these orders were countermanded. From this day, to the 6th, there were fre-

quent councils, violent debates, and nothing done. A quarrel broke out between O'Reilly and the Marquis de Romana, a Spanish major-general, who was killed in the subsequent action. On the 6th, the principal officers were again assembled, to receive their ultimate instructions. The commander in chief warned the army, that it was the custom of the Moors, to pretend a most violent attack, and on the smallest resistance, to fly with precipitation, that they might draw the enemy into an ambuscade. He cautioned the troops not to break their ranks, as nothing but the force of discipline could secure them against so active an enemy. He pointed out the very error which they soon after committed, and the snare into which they were betrayed. On landing, the army was directed to gain some heights, which were supposed requisite to ensure success against Algiers. In the afternoon of the 6th, some ships of war were ordered to fire against three batteries to the eastward of that city. This commission was executed with so much laudable attention to the personal safety of the assailants, if such we may term them, that their shot *did not reach the shore*, those of one seventy-four gun ship excepted. At sun-set this formidable attack ceased.

On the 7th at day-break, between eight and nine thousand men were put on board the boats for landing. They advanced, under the protection of some larger vessels very near the coast. Not a Moor appeared to oppose them; and at seven o'clock in the morning, they *returned on board the transports*. Not a shot was fired on either side, during the whole day.

On the 8th, at day-break, the ships being stationed to batter the different forts to the right and left of the place of disembarkation, the troops, to the number of about eight thousand, were put on board the boats; which formed in six columns. The place of landing was a league and an half to the eastward of the city of Algiers. Eighty thousand Moors, of whom two thirds were cavalry, came in sight, but did not attempt to oppose the landing of the Spanish forces. It is said, that the whole number of Africans collected on this occa-

tion, was not less than one hundred and fifty thousand. The troops advanced into a close country, which the Algerines had occupied in small parties. The grenadiers and light infantry of the Spaniards were repulsed, and the whole body fell into confusion. In a very short time they fled, leaving behind them a great number of killed and wounded. The latter, a few excepted, were, in spite of their intreaties, left to the *mercy* of the conquerors. Part of a second embarkation of troops added to the general confusion. A third body had cast up an entrenchment on the shore, for the protection of the army. The Africans attacked it, but were driven back with great slaughter on both sides. The Spaniards, in their gazette, acknowledged the loss of five hundred and twenty one men killed, and two thousand two hundred and seventy nine wounded. It is said, that the Algerines had between five and six thousand men slain on the spot. The wounded Spaniards, who were left on the field of battle, were every one murdered by the enemy. The government of Algiers had offered ten sequins for the head of each Spaniard. Fifteen pieces of cannon, and three howitzers were left behind by these unfortunate invaders. The real amount of their loss can hardly have been less than three thousand lives, and was perhaps considerably greater. In the gazette of a court, we seldom expect an honest reckoning of this kind. If the writer of that of Madrid intended us to believe that two thousand two hundred and seventy-nine of the wounded were brought off, the officer from whose journal this account is extracted, says that a much greater number were left behind, than were saved, which makes the story worse and worse. On details of this kind, we cannot dwell with pleasure. One circumstance is evident, that the Spanish commanders did not understand their business.\*

\* This narrative is extracted from a journal printed by major William Dalrymple, at the end of his Travels through Spain and Portugal, printed at London, in 1777. The trite tale of a dey of Algiers having offered to burn the city for fifty thousand pounds, is a despicable newspaper fiction.

## CHAPTER V.

*State of America as to Algiers. Conduct of Britain.  
Concluding Remarks.*

**I**N the two last Chapters, we have seen the Algerines successively set at defiance, several of the most formidable nations of Europe. When the United States of America had obtained their infant independence, it was naturally to be expected, that they also should, in some degree, suffer, by the ravages of the corsairs. Various circumstances pointed them out, as eligible objects of piratical rapine. They possessed an extensive trade with Europe, which in the first place, presented a splendid temptation to plunder. There was, on the part of the Algerines, a second and irresistible motive to hostilities. America did not support, at her national expence, any maritime force whatever; and thirdly, had she even established an armed navy, this country lies at the distance of more than three thousand miles, from the common range of the privateers of Barbary. Hence, to reduce them to submission, must always require a proportion of trouble and expence greatly superior to the substantial magnitude of the object of attack; and this remoteness of our situation might be considered as an additional inducement to the regency of Algiers for interrupting our navigation. Of the number and strength of the corsairs, it is impossible to give an accurate statement. Their actual force, however, compared, with that which the United States could easily fit out, is but trifling. To bring their whole ships of war, at once, to a regular engagement, never can be practicable, but should it happen, it may without presumption be supposed, that fifteen or twenty American forty gun frigates would send heir navy to the bottom. When we reflect on the numerous and peculiar incitements which these Africans had, to commence depredations on the commerce of the United States, instead of being surpris'd at our having suffered so much, it rather becomes an object



of wonder that we have suffered so little. The late alarming intelligence from Lisbon has excited universal attention from the public to that subject, which may be divided into two questions. First, why, excepting two vessels,\* have not the ships of this country met with any interruption since the end of the war with Britain? Second, why has our trade now suffered so unexpected and severe a check?

In answer to the first query, it has happened, that since the independence of North-America, the Algerines have been constantly at war, with the Dutch, or the Portuguese, or both at once; and as either of these nations is greatly superior, in regular strength at sea, to the corsairs, they have, hitherto, for the security of their own commerce, watched the entrance of the Mediterranean so carefully, that the corsairs have been seldom able to get out of it. That they sometimes did so is unfortunately certain, from the fate of the two American vessels above-mentioned; but, in general, they were shut up in the Mediterranean, as in a prison, without a possibility of extending their depredations on the Atlantic ocean. Into the former, American vessels but sometimes ventured, and when they did so, they derived security from forged or purchased Mediterranean passes. A British ship has for her protection a pass, which is written on a large sheet of parchment, and has, by way of ornament, some figures or dashes drawn with a pen, or engraved on the margin. The Algerines cannot read English, and it would most likely cost the captain

\* On the 25th of July, 1785, the schooner *Maria*, captain Stephens, belonging to Mr. Forster, of Boston, was taken off Cape St. Vincents, by an Algerine cruiser; and five days afterwards, the ship *Dolphin*, captain O'Brien, belonging to Messrs Irvines of Philadelphia, was taken by another, fifty leagues westward of Lisbon. These vessels, with their cargoes, and crews, twenty one in number, were carried into Algiers. Of this number two have been ransomed by their friends. The remainder now reduced by death to thirteen, are yet slaves. In the newspapers about that time, two or three other ships are reported as captured, but upon enquiry, these two vessels only appear to have been so.

of a corsair his head, were he to carry a British vessel, by mistake, as a prize into the harbour of Algiers. They have adopted a *sagacious* contrivance to discover whether such passes are genuine. They keep a stick marked with notches corresponding to the shape of those figures, that are uniformly delineated on the margin of the parchment. When the pass is produced, their measure is applied. In this way, it cannot be difficult for the most bungling artist, who has an original pass before him, to deceive them, and, by this means, it is said, upon reputable authority, that many vessels have been preserved. Besides, even in the Mediterranean itself, the progress of the Algerines has been considerably cramped by the Portuguese and Dutch ships of war, and both these nations, as well as the Spaniards, from a regard to their own interest, as well as from the common principles of justice and humanity, have been forward to extend their protection to the American flag.

In answer to the second query, this protection has, at present been suspended, because a cessation of hostilities has taken place between Holland and Portugal on the one side, and the regency of Algiers on the other. Spain, at the same time, has been engaged in the general conspiracy of the Domitians and Caligulas of Europe, against the republic of France; and as this country has contracted the guilt of becoming a free nation, we likewise are involved, though, *as yet*, but at second hand, in the vengeance of the imperial and royal Vandals. The corsairs of Barbary are now at liberty to attack the vessels of the United States, not only in the Mediterranean, but also in the Atlantic ocean. From the final establishment of American independence, some attempts are reported to have been made by the American government, to conclude a pacification with the state of Algiers, but for some reason or other, these attempts have hitherto proved unsuccessful. The circumstances which have always disappointed the pacific designs of our administration, deserve to be investigated; but before we proceed to that subject, it may not be improper to state in a few words the situation of this country, with respect to the emperor of Morocco.

A treaty of peace and commerce between that prince and America, having been concluded by the agency of Mr. Thomas Barclay, was ratified by Congress at New-York, on the 18th of July, 1787. It consists of twenty five articles. Want of room prevents its insertion entire in this place, but the third and fifth clauses merit at this juncture, the most particular attention; and are in these words.

ART. III. *If either of the parties shall be at war with any nation whatever, and take a prize belonging to that nation, and there shall be found on board subjects or effects belonging to either of the parties, the subjects shall be set at liberty, and the effects returned to the owners. And if any goods, belonging to any nation, with whom either of the parties shall be at war, shall be loaded in vessels belonging to the other party, they shall pass free and unmolested, without any attempt being made to take or detain them.*

ART. V. *If either of the parties shall be at war, and meet a vessel at sea belonging to the other, it is agreed that if an examination is to be made, it shall be done by sending a boat with two or three men only, and if any gun shall be fired, and injury done without reason, the offending party shall make good all damages.*

The twenty-fifth, and last article is in these words: *This treaty shall continue in full force, with the help of God, for fifty years.* A most desirable event.

Let us compare the tenor of this treaty, which remains unviolated, with the present conduct of Britain, of Russia, and of Spain, towards the United States of America. We shall then be convinced, that in a contrast with the sovereigns of these three nations, the emperor of Morocco is a monarch of justice and humanity.

Several of our late letters from Lisbon agree in asserting, that the present peace or truce between Algiers and Portugal has been formed by the officious intervention of England, without the knowledge of the latter. The same advices add, and their information is universally believed, that this has been done by England, that the corsairs of Barbary might have liberty to interrupt the commerce of this country with Europe.

Since the commencement of the unfortunate war, that now spreads desolation and bankruptcy over so many countries, in that quarter of the world, American bottoms, because they were neutral, obtained the preference to those of England in the carrying trade. *They were not liable to be seized by French privateers*, and could, therefore, unmolested, transport the commodities of any one country to any other. This advantage gave our vessels a decided superiority; and the master of an American ship frequently received twenty per cent. more for the same freight, than would be given to the master of an English vessel. This humiliating distinction alarmed the pride of the English nation. Divested of the carrying trade, the naval despotism of England would at once shrink into nothing. The powers of Europe may reduce her to the natural level of her importance, without the expense of firing a single gun. Let them declare, that no vessel of that country shall bring into their harbours, any commodities but those of British growth or manufacture. Her navy, which has perpetrated such incessant mischief, would then, if I may borrow the trite quotation from Shakespeare, vanish, *like the baseless fabric of a vision*.

The Americans, for some time past, have been making rapid strides towards her expulsion from the carrying trade. England could hardly venture, at this crisis, to add a second republic to the catalogue of her enemies. She has, therefore, adopted the miserable expedient of turning loose the Algerines, that these execrable ruffians might plunder our property, and plunge our fellow-citizens into slavery.

Lord Sheffield, in a pamphlet which has obtained more notice than it deserved, informs the English nation, "That it will not be the interest of any of the great maritime powers, to protect the American vessels from the Barbary states." This benevolent remark has received a proper answer from the author of "Observations" on his lordship's pamphlet. The moderation of style, the candour of reasoning, and the unquestioned authenticity of the facts advanced by Mr. Coxe, deserve, in an uncommon degree, the attention, and the gratitude of his countrymen.

The public have just been informed of a resolution passed by Congress. A naval force is to be fitted out adequate to the protection of our commerce against the Algerines ; or to speak with propriety, against the *African emissaries of England*. It is not impossible that the business will end by a trip to the Bahama islands. They contain a gang of pirates, who deserve a gibbet still better than the disciples of Barbarossa.

*The following lines are extracted from a " Poem on the happiness of America," by colonel Humphrey. We cannot agree with this writer, that Britain is the " First of nations, and " the queen of isles ;" or that the Algerines are the " feeblest" of men. Yet, upon the whole, these verses are spirited and poetical.*

**H**OW long will heav'n restrain its burbling ire,  
 Nor rain blue tempests of devouring fire?  
 How long shall widows weep their sons in vain,  
 The prop of years in slav'ry's iron chain?  
 How long the love-sick maid, unheeded, rove  
 The sounding shore, and call her absent love ;  
 With wasting tears and sighs his lot bewail,  
 And seem to see him in each coming sail?  
 How long the merchant turn his failing eyes,  
 In desperation, on the seas and skies,  
 And ask his captur'd ships, his ravish'd goods,  
 With frantic ravings, of the heav'ns and floods?  
 How long, Columbians dear ! will ye complain  
 Of these curst insults on the open main ?  
 In timid sloth, shall injur'd brav'ry sleep?  
 Awake ! awake ! avengers of the deep !  
 Revenge ! revenge ! the voice of nature cries :  
 Awake to glory, and to vengeance rise !  
 To arms ! to arms ! ye bold indignant bands !  
 'Tis heav'n inspires ; 'tis God himself commands  
 Save human nature from such deadly harms,  
 By force of reason, or by force of arms.

O ye great powers, who passports basely crave,  
 From Afric's lords to sail the midland wave—  
 Great fallen pow'rs, whose gems and golden bribes  
 Buy paltry passports from these savage tribes—  
 Ye, whose fine purples, silks, and stuffs of gold  
 (An annual tribute) their dark limbs infold—

Ye, whose mean policy for them equips,  
 To plague mankind, the predatory ships—  
 Why will you buy your infamy so dear?  
 Is it self-int'rest, or a dastard fear?  
 Is it because ye meanly think to gain  
 A richer commerce on th' infested main?  
 Is it because ye meanly wish to see  
 Your rivals chain'd, yourselves ignobly free?  
 Who gave commissions to these monsters fierce,  
 To hold in chains the humbled universe?  
 Would God, would nature, would their conqu'ring swords,  
 Without your meanness, make them ocean's lords?  
 What! Do you fear? nor dare their power provoke?  
 Would not that bubble burst beneath your stroke?  
 And shall the weak remains of barb'rous rage,  
 Insulting, triumph o'er th' enlighten'd age?  
 Do ye not feel confusion, horror, shame,  
 To bear a hateful, tributary name?  
 Will ye not aid to wipe the foul disgrace,  
 And break the fetters from the human race?

Then, though unaided by those mighty powers,  
 Ours be the toil; the danger, glory ours:  
 Then, O my friends, by heav'n ordain'd to see,  
 From tyrant rage, the long infested sea—  
 Then let us firm, though solitary, stand,  
 The sword, and olive branch in either hand:  
 An equal peace propose with reason's voice,  
 Or rush to arms, if arms should be their choice.

Stung by their crimes, can aught your vengeance stay?  
 Can terror daunt you? or can death dismay?  
 The soul enrag'd, can threats, can tortures tame,  
 Or the dark dungeon quench th'etherial flame?  
 Have ye not once to heav'n's dread throne appeal'd,  
 And has not heav'n your independence seal'd?  
 What was the power ye dar'd that time engage,  
 And brave the terrors of its hostile rage?  
 Was it not Britain, great in warlike toils,  
 The first of nations, as the queen of isles—  
 Britain, whose fleets, that rul'd the briny surge,  
 Made navies tremble to its utmost verge,  
 Whose single arm held half the world at odds,  
 Great nurse of sages, bards, and demigods!  
 But what are these whose threat'nings round you burst?  
 Of men the dregs, the feeblest, vilest, worst;  
 These are the pirates from the Barb'ry strand,  
 Audacious miscreants, fierce, yet feeble band!  
 Who, impious, dare (no provocation giv'n)  
 Insult the rights of man—the laws of heav'n!









